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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 26, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. PALMER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1881.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1881) granting a pension to Lydia Chapman, have examined the same and report:

A similar bill was introduced in the House of Representatives during the present session, referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported favorably, and is adopted as a part of this report.

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HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4608) to pension Lydia Chapman, submit the following report:

Samuel J. Chapman was the minor son of the claimant. He was steersman on board the transport steamer *B. M. Runyon*, which was impressed by the Quartermaster's Department, United States Army, for the transportation of troops and stores on the Mississippi River in July, 1864. The boat was snagged and sunk about 100 miles above Vicksburg July 21, 1864, and Samuel J. Chapman drowned.

His mother was, at the time of his death, dependent upon him for support. The claimant, before marriage to Edmund Chapman, was a Miss Lydia Dryden, a daughter of William Dryden, a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

She is a widow now, nearly 90 years of age, and without any property except a life estate in an old house in Upper Acton, Ill., so old and poor that for some years it has not had a tenant. She is dependent upon a feeble unmarried daughter, who supports herself and mother by sewing.

The above facts appear from letters of the Auditor of the Treasury for the War Department, and the Quartermaster-General, United States Army; a letter from the deceased, shortly before his death, informing his parents of the shipment by express of money to them; the evidence on file in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions, and by the statements of the sister of the deceased, given to the subcommittee.

The Commissioner of Pensions properly rejected claimant's claim for pension as dependent mother under the law on the ground that there was "no title, claimant's son not having been in the military or naval service of the United States."

Your committee believe that under the circumstances the deceased lost his life in the service of his country. Transports, whether chartered or impressed, were under military orders. They went, and were obliged to go, into the enemy's country. The claimant is needy; she was dependent on this son for support; he lost his life while at important work in the interest of his Government in time of war; she justly is entitled to the bounty of the Government during the brief period of her remaining life.

Your committee therefore recommend that the bill do pass, with an amendment, by adding to the end of the bill "at twelve dollars per month," and also by inserting before the word "mother," in sixth line, the word "dependent."